California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region

Tissue, Sediment and Benthic Infauna Data
Ventura River Estuary

Summary of Proposed Action

Proposed New Delistings

- Delist DDT in tissue as the original listing appears to have been based on DDT concentrations found in shiner surfperch in 1993 (TSM); however, the level of 23 ppb for p,p'-DDE is below the MTRL (which equals 32.0 ppb).

Table 1. 303(d) Listing/TMDL Information

Waterbody Name	Ventura River Estuary	**Pollutants/Stressors**	See Above
Hydrologic Unit	402.10	**Source(s)**	n/a
Total Waterbody Size	0.35 mi	**TMDL Priority**	87
Size Affected		**TMDL Start Date (Mo/Yr)**	
Extent of Impairment		**TMDL End Date (Mo/Yr)**	

Watershed Characteristics

The Ventura River and its tributaries drain a coastal watershed in western Ventura County. The watershed covers a fan-shaped area of 235 square miles, which is situated within the western Transverse Ranges (the only major east-west mountain ranges in the continental U.S.). From the upper slopes of the Transverse Ranges, the surface water system in the Ventura River watershed generally flows in a southerly direction to an estuary, located at the mouth of the Ventura River. Groundwater basins composed of alluvial aquifers deposited along the surface water system, are highly interconnected with the surface water system and are quickly recharged or depleted, according to surface flow conditions. Topography in the watershed is rugged and as a result, the surface waters that drain the watershed have very steep gradients, ranging from 40 feet per mile at the mouth to 150 feet per mile at the headwaters.

Precipitation varies widely in the watershed. Most occurs as rainfall during just a few storms, between November and March. Summer and fall months are typically dry. Although snow occurs at higher elevations, melting snowpack does not sustain significant runoff in warmer months. The erratic weather pattern, coupled with the steep gradients throughout most of the watershed, result in high flow velocities with most runoff reaching the ocean.

Water Quality Objectives Not Attained

N/A

Beneficial Uses Affected

Aquatic Life

Data Assessment

Table 2. Summary of Tissue and Sediment Data for the Ventura River Estuary

Dates of Sampling	2/10/93 6/21/93 6/20/98
Number of Samples (n)	1993: 1 (sediment) + 1 (fish tissue) 1998: 2 (sediment)
Minimum Data Value	
Maximum Data Value	
Median Data Value	
Arithmetic Mean Value	
Standard Deviation	
Number (Percent) above Objective	

This table may summarize additional data not relevant to this factsheet that supports a continued listing for this waterbody.

Potential Sources

N/A

References

Toxic Substances Monitoring Program Database
Bay Protection and Toxic Cleanup Program Database
Ojai Valley Sanitation Districts NPDES Monitoring